

sallied out of the castle and perished
to a man.
The armament set sail for Sicily in a
storm from
which only one hundred of the vessels
arrived in
port.

The disaster of Al Mahdia, the
unfortunate
prelude of his African empire,
remained a bitter
memory at Roger's court until the
great victory of
1148 retrieved it: it crowned the
young Hasan
with glory and won him the panegyrics
of historians
and poets in the whole Moslem world, *

More immediate affairs drew Roger
away from
African conquest; his admirals
continued to engage
the African states in a desultory war,
but both
his military and naval resources were
needed elsewhere.
The succession to Apulia,
whose Duke
was childless, must soon be decided,

Roger was technically the liegeman of
the Duke;
actually the aid of the Count of Sicily
was all that
stood between William and the
dissolution of his
dominions. The Duke's vassals were
uncontrollable and the pass to which Guiscard's
grandson
was brought by a single rebel is
illustrated by
Falco of Benevento. He tells that in
1122 Duke
William came to Roger of Sicily
begging for help

¹ Ibn-el-Athir, *B.A.S.*, t. i., p. 454-5: "God . . . sent the enemy a storm which brought them all to destruction « the cold waves . . . slew them without need of the blue lance-lieftdi

or the white blades of sabres," Ibn-Hamdis wrote
ft song of
triumph: "O son of AH, young lion in the Holy
Garden of the
Faith to whom the lances are a living hedge , . .
woe to the blue-
eyed Franks—they shall receive no *Mm* from thy
lips" (B.A.S,*
t.ii.,p.379)-